

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for analyzing one or more user's communication messages that contain communications from a plurality of user contacts, the method comprising:

- a) accessing a plurality of communication messages; and
- b) processing the plurality of communication messages, wherein the processing of the plurality of communication messages includes:
 - b1) determining identities of the plurality of user contacts;
 - b2) assigning rankings to each of the plurality of user contacts based on the plurality of communication messages; and
 - b3) determining relationships that may exist between or among the contacts, and relationships that may exist between the one or more users and the contacts;

wherein contacts ~~which~~ that engage in frequent communications with the user are assigned higher rankings and contacts ~~which~~ that engage in less frequent communications with the user are assigned lower rankings.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for analyzing one or more user's communication messages that contain communications from a plurality of user contacts, the method comprising:

- a) accessing a plurality of communication messages; and
- b) processing the plurality of communication messages, wherein the processing of the plurality of communication messages includes:
 - b1) determining identities of the plurality of user contacts;
 - b2) assigning rankings to each of the plurality of user contacts based on the plurality of communication messages; and
 - b3) determining relationships that may exist between or among the contacts, and relationships that may exist between the one or more users and the contacts;

wherein contacts ~~which~~ that engage in more recent communications with the user are assigned higher rankings and contacts ~~which~~ that engage in less recent communications with the user are assigned lower rankings.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for analyzing one or more user's communication messages that contain communications from a plurality of user contacts, the method comprising:

- a) accessing a plurality of communication messages; and
- b) processing the plurality of communication messages, wherein the processing of the plurality of communication messages includes:
 - b1) determining identities of the plurality of user contacts;
 - b2) assigning rankings to each of the plurality of user contacts based on the plurality of communication messages; and
 - b3) determining relationships that may exist between or among the contacts, and relationships that may exist between the one or more users and the contacts;

wherein processing the plurality of communication messages includes [:] assigning higher priority to contacts who engage in reciprocal communications with the user.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for analyzing one or more user's communication messages that contain communications from a plurality of user contacts, the method comprising:

- a) accessing a plurality of communication messages; and
- b) processing the plurality of communication messages, wherein the processing of the plurality of communication messages includes:
 - b1) determining identities of the plurality of user contacts;
 - b2) assigning rankings to each of the plurality of user contacts based on the plurality of communication messages; and

b3) determining relationships that may exist between or among the contacts, and relationships that may exist between the one or more users and the contacts;

wherein processing the plurality of communication messages includes [:] determining if a contact has engaged in reciprocal communications with the user.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

assigning higher priority to contacts who engage in frequent reciprocal communications with the user.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1,~~ A method for analyzing one or more user's communication messages that contain communications from a plurality of user contacts, the method comprising:

a) accessing a plurality of communication messages; and

b) processing the plurality of communication messages, wherein the processing of the plurality of communication messages includes:

b1) determining identities of the plurality of user contacts;

b2) assigning rankings to each of the plurality of user contacts based on the plurality of communication messages; and

b3) determining relationships that may exist between or among the contacts, and relationships that may exist between the one or more users and the contacts;

wherein processing the plurality of communication messages includes [:] employing voice recognition techniques to convert voicemail messages to text in order to extract contact information from the communication messages.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 11;~~ A method for processing user communication files to determine identities of contacts within the communication files, to prioritize the relative importance of the contacts identified and to establish any relationships between the contacts, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of communication files, wherein the communication files include a plurality of different contacts;

reviewing the plurality of communication files to determine contact identities, contact priorities and relationships; and

providing an analysis of the communication files, wherein the analysis provides the identities of contacts identified in the communication files, the relative importance of contacts relative to one another and any relationships between two or more contacts;

wherein reviewing the plurality of communication files includes [:] parsing the plurality of communication files to determine whether prior reciprocal communications exists between a particular contact and the user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 18;~~ A method for identifying a user's potential contacts, prioritizing these potential contacts and determining any relationships between these potential contacts based on a plurality of stored messages, the method comprising:

a) analyzing the plurality of stored messages, the analyzing step including:

1) identifying the potential contacts within the stored messages;

2) determining the relative importance of the identified potential contacts; and

3) determining any established relationships between the potential contacts mentioned in the stored messages; and

b) receiving from the user approvals of the potential contacts that have been identified and prioritized;

wherein the relative importance of contacts is based on one or more of:

- [the] a frequency of communications between the contacts and the user,
- [the] a recency of the communications between the contacts and the user; and
- [the] a reciprocity of the communications between the contacts and the user.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 18;~~ A method for identifying a user's potential contacts, prioritizing these potential contacts and determining any relationships between these potential contacts based on a plurality of stored messages, the method comprising:

a) analyzing the plurality of stored messages, the analyzing step including:

1) identifying the potential contacts within the stored messages;

2) determining the relative importance of the identified potential contacts; and

3) determining any established relationships between the potential contacts mentioned in the stored messages; and

b) receiving from the user approvals of the potential contacts that have been identified and prioritized;

wherein the relative importance of contacts is based on the following equation:

$$\text{Importance} = Kx_1 + Lx_2 + Mx_3 + Nx_4,$$

wherein:

x_1 = number of messages the user replies to from the originating contact;

x_2 = number of messages the user sends to the contact excluding replies;

x_3 = number of reply messages from the contact;

x_4 = combined total of messages that are not composed by the user in which the contact is mentioned in the cc or to lines, plus messages from the contact that are not replies; and

K, L, M and N are constant weightings.